



WESTERN WASHINGTON CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC RENEWAL

# GLEANINGS

THAT ALL CATHOLICS MATURE IN A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS,  
EMPOWERED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT, TO THE GLORY OF GOD THE FATHER.

MAY/JUNE 2024

Volume I Number 3

## ENCOURAGEMENT AND CHALLENGE FROM POPE FRANCIS

by Virginia King

### Pope Francis Addresses to CHARIS and to the Italian Renewal in the Spirit Movement

Throughout the history of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal (CCR), every Pope has offered words of support and encouragement in various meetings with many different gatherings of CCR that have happened over the past 57 years. In the past six months, Pope Francis has addressed two different groups of leaders in CCR. Last November, he met with CHARIS, the organization that serves CCR at the international level. In January of this year, he addressed the Italian leaders of CCR. Both of these addresses have encouragement and challenges for those of us who are interested in CCR on the local level, here in the Archdiocese of Seattle.

In his address to CHARIS, he urged an emphasis on evangelization through the promotion of Life in the Spirit Seminars. Here at WWCCR, we have been offering these as a one-day retreat which we have called Life with the Holy Spirit Retreats, including a follow-up gathering four weeks later.

Here are some portions of that address:

“One goal [that I have encouraged] is to expand the “Life in the Spirit Seminars” in all places and for everyone. These are truly kerygmatic moments, opportunities for the “initial proclamation” of the Gospel. They make it possible for people to encounter the living Jesus, in his word and his

*Spirit, and at the same time to experience his Church as a welcoming environment, a place of grace, reconciliation and rebirth. That is why I have encouraged you to make these Seminars more widely available. Today I would ask you: are the Life in the Spirit Seminars being offered in a variety of ecclesial contexts, in small and more remote places, and among the poor and on the peripheries? Each of you can answer this in your hearts. ...Even small parish groups and local leaders can organize them and present them to people in their area.*

“The Life in the Spirit Seminars are often an engaging and transformative experience that becomes a turning point in people’s lives. A turning point: after a Seminar, people change course! Nonetheless, they are only a beginning, like a fire that burns very intensely but risks dying out unless it is continually fed. Precisely for this reason, the Seminars need to be followed up by suitable methods of continuing formation that can fan into

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## WWCCR VISION AND MISSION

**Vision:** that all Catholics mature in a personal relationship with Jesus, empowered by the Holy Spirit, to the glory of God the Father.

**Mission:** to renew the face of the earth by nurturing and inspiring Catholics:

- + To experience a personal relationship with Jesus Christ
- + To fan into flame the gifts we receive through the Sacraments
- + To develop a deeper life of prayer and worship

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**GLEANINGS** is the bimonthly newsletter published by Western Washington Catholic Charismatic Renewal (WWCCR). The purpose of this newsletter is to provide teaching, news, and a notice of events that help to foster Catholic Charismatic Renewal throughout the Church in Western Washington.

**Deadline:** in order for any articles, news, or calendar items to be considered for publication in **GLEANINGS**, it must be submitted by the 1st of the month before the month of publication. All submissions subject to editing for length, accuracy, and clarity.

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## OFFICE NOTES FROM KATHY MOORE WWCCR Office Manager

Pope Francis encourages Life in the Spirit seminars as opportunities to encounter the living Jesus. Life in the Spirit seminars are often a turning point in one's life. But they are only a beginning and need to be followed by continued formation. The Pope's address to the Renewal is found on page one.

I wasn't able to go to WWCCR's Women's Retreat this year but people sent photos and we have some wonderful articles that describe how others experienced it. For Becky Williamson, it was her first retreat. I noticed that it was through an invitation that she went, even though "she didn't do retreats." I know the importance of inviting someone to go, as that's how I ended up attending my first retreat. Becky's article is found on page 4. On page 6, Karen Hauge wrote what going to the retreat means to her, how her life changed because of it, and the deep sense



of belonging that it gives her. On page 5, Karen Rotter reminisced how healing, friendships and memories continue long after the retreat ends. Heather Weldon, page 5, wrote about surrender, giving all to God, and God gathers the pieces, nothing is lost or invisible to him. Andrea Garcia's article on page 6 covers the friendships formed during the retreat especially through the small group sharing. She asks readers to think back when someone reached out their hand to help you. ■

Photo: Pixabay / Annett Klingner

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WWCCR is under the auspices of the Archdiocese of Seattle, but as a nonprofit ministry depends solely on our supporters to pay our staff, the rent and our bills. Would you help us bring renewal to this region with Holy Spirit and healing events? Please say a prayer, asking the Lord how much you can afford to pledge each month for 2024. Those who set up monthly payments with WWCCR using their debit or credit cards, are asked to renew their gift at the beginning of each year. We thank you for partnering with us through your financial gift, your volunteering, and your prayers. For more information:



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flame the graces received and encourage ongoing growth in faith and prayer, the moral and sacramental life, the practice of charity and cooperation in the Church's mission."

Pope Francis also emphasizes the need to promote the exercise of charisms, not only in CCR but in the whole Church. He again emphasizes the need for continual growth in holiness. He says:

"To promote charisms, we must follow the one who is the Teacher in promoting charisms: the Holy Spirit. Let us think of the morning of Pentecost: there was great disorder, no one understood anything; yet the Holy Spirit himself brought harmony to that great diversity. And he is the Teacher who teaches us how to promote charisms. This is especially the case for charisms that serve evangelization and missionary activity aimed above all at those who do not yet know Christ.

"It should not be taken for granted that once someone has received baptism in the Spirit that he or she is already fully Christian. The path to holiness always involves growth in personal conversion and in the generous gift of oneself, a gift to Christ and to others, not merely in a sense of spiritual consolation."

In his address to the Italian leaders, he emphasized the importance of focusing on prayer and evangelization. Here are excerpts of what he said:

"By its very nature, the charismatic movement gives space and emphasis to *prayer*, in particular to prayer of praise, and this is very important. In a world dominated by a culture of having and efficiency, and in a Church that is sometimes too concerned with organization we all need to make room for thanksgiving, for praise and for wonder at God's grace. I ask you, brothers and sisters, to continue to serve the Church in this, especially by promoting the prayer of *adoration*. An adoration in which silence is predominant, in which the Word of God prevails over our words; in short, an adoration in which he, the Lord, is at the center, not ourselves.

"This is the first aspect for which I thank you and encourage you: that of prayer. The second is that of *evangelization*, which also belongs, so to speak, to the DNA of the charismatic movement. The Holy Spirit, welcomed in the heart and in life, cannot but open us, move us, make us go outwards: the Spirit always urges us to communicate the Gospel, to go out, and he does so with his inexhaustible imagination. What we have to do is be docile and collaborate with him, as the Acts of the Apostles tell us of Stephen, Philip, Barnabas, Peter, Paul and the others. They did not have a manual for how to proceed: it was the Spirit that moved them and they did many great things. And always remember that the first proclamation is made through the *witness of life!* What use are long prayers and many beautiful hymns, if I do not know how to be patient with my neighbor, if I do not know how to be close to my mother who is alone? It is the fourth commandment: I am scandalized by men and women who do not go to visit their parents in retirement homes—or that person in difficulty... Real charity, hidden service, is always the proof of our proclamation. Words, gestures and canticles without the substance of charity, will not do.

"...the Renewal community must be at the service of the entire diocesan community, the entire parish community, in accordance with the bishop's pastoral indications. Communion also with the other ecclesial realities, associations, movements, groups: bearing witness to fraternity, mutual respect in diversity, collaboration in commitment to joint initiatives, service to the people of God and also in relation to social questions in which the dignity of people is at stake." ■

**You can find the full text of these addresses here:** <https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/speeches/2023/november/documents/20231104-charis.html>

<https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/speeches/2024/january/documents/20240120-rinnovamento-spirito.html>



## “TRANSFORMED BY LOVE” 2024 WOMEN’S RETREAT

### MY FIRST RETREAT

by *Becky Williamson*

I was meant to be there. In hindsight I can see the Lord’s hand working. Jean Beers asked me if I would like to go with her and I said, “Yes” (What?!! Who said that?!! I don’t do retreats!!)

The first evening, wonderful praise and worship and the question, “Where or how do I want to be transformed by God’s love this weekend?” In the chapel I received from the Lord the single word, “Barrier.” (Hmmm, Lord, what?) But, yes, I had been feeling spiritually distant from the Lord lately. There was something, nothing big, more of a distracting barrier between us.

Saturday morning: the angels were singing!!! “Well, actually it was the wonderful women of the music ministry singing their wake up songs... but they sounded like angels!” This was a foretaste of the amazing day to come. More praise and worship (can there ever be enough? Nooooo!) Then the second talk from Fr. Jim (Fr. Jim, I could happily listen to you all day! ...with breaks of course!)

One visual exercise really hit home... As I remember it (and

maybe my hearing was spiritually modified) we were asked to close our eyes and then visualize “What is keeping you from being closer to the Lord?” And there it was, my “barrier,” that looked like boards, except, Jesus’ hands were reaching through it. We were asked to remove whatever it was. I pushed it aside and fell into Jesus’s waiting arms! (Sorry, slight pause here, because I am crying, again! Love you, Lord!)

From this point on the Lord continued to reassure me. During “drenching prayer” (they don’t ask for more of the Spirit for you, but that you are DRENCHED in the Spirit! Love it.) I wasn’t expecting any more than a prayer (boy, was I wrong). The instant her hands hit my shoulders, I could feel the heat. At one point I felt something go through my left side and it was as if I had stepped on a buzzer (wow, something is happening here!) Then, very quietly, the person praying for me said, “The Lord is having quite the dance with you.” (Wow, Lord, lots to ponder here). And, it wasn’t just me. All around the Spirit was in full force reaching out to everyone! (If there was some kind of spiritual monitor that could be seen, I’m sure they

could see this from space that night! Praise God!)

The Lord wasn’t done with me yet. During 4am Adoration (yes, I love Adoration of my Lord that much) while quietly sitting with

the heat going off and on, I started smelling incense. (Ah, it must just be years of incense residue coming out of the woodwork). But I sat anticipating the heat coming back on and when it did, there was no incense this time. (Lord, I don’t know what this means, maybe a reminder that you are here with me now and always. Love you, Lord!)

One more blessing the Lord gave me was the fellowship. Never have I had the experience of being in the company of so many beautiful, loving and God-loving women! That was the only sadness, saying goodbye to them.

The final entry for the weekend in my workbook was, “The Lord has encouraged me to seek more, step closer, stir up the Spirit, continue to knock down any barriers that spring up (knowing that Jesus will be there with an all consuming hug!) and to learn to dance unrestrained with the Lord!

God willing, I will be there next year (yay!!). And, by the way, this was no retreat... this was a battle and VICTORY! ■

*Becky Williamson is a Living Light prayer group member and parishioner at St. Hubert parish, Langley.*

Photos: Kellie Schneider

## GOD GATHERS UP THE PIECES

by Heather Weldon

“Gather up the fragments left over,  
so that nothing may be lost.”

- John 6:12

The question was something like this:  
“What do you want to surrender or  
leave with God?”

Of all the colorful paper hearts on  
the table, I chose a purple one to  
write down my thoughts and ways of  
being that I wanted to surrender.  
There was so much I wanted to let go  
of and give to God. I wrote down  
words like “feeling invisible,” “forgot-  
ten,” “like I don’t matter,” “separate,”  
“different,” and on and on.

I wrote on my little heart until there  
was no more room to write. Each of us  
then took our paper heart to the front  
of the chapel and left it in the big  
bowl. I surrendered my heart at the,  
altar, with all its stories and words. God  
would know what to do with it.

On Sunday morning (the last day of  
our retreat) there was something new  
waiting for us on a large easel at the



front of our meeting room. It looked  
like the biggest Valentine in the world!  
It was a large heart with vibrant pinks  
and reds and other colors.

As I got closer to the enormous heart, I  
noticed a cross in the middle of it.  
The entire piece of art was a collage  
made with the torn pieces of our little  
paper hearts and reformed into a  
huge heart with a cross in the center.

I worried the pieces of my heart weren’t  
there. That somehow, they would be  
“forgotten,” “lost,” or “invisible.” I  
looked for the fragments  
of my purple heart. I  
didn’t see them. Just as  
I felt my spirits start to  
sink, I saw them. I saw  
them! They were there!  
They were the pieces  
that made up the cross,  
inside the heart. Thank  
you, Lord! Yes, of course  
that’s where my heart  
was. That’s where my life  
has always been, and  
is. He gathers all the  
pieces, so that nothing  
is lost or invisible. He  
sees me. He sees me!

An overwhelming feel-  
ing washed over me  
that I **was** seen. That I  
was not invisible. He sees  
me. I’m not alone. This was  
my Valentine from God.

## MY GRATEFUL HEART

by Karen Rotter

I didn’t plan on attending the Women’s  
retreat; it was gifted to me by one of  
my dearest friends. Many obstacles  
surfaced in getting there; however,  
Jesus paved the way and it was  
amazing!

While suffering deep sadness at the  
loss of my son, brother, mother and  
husband in less than three years, I am  
still realizing the scope and impact  
of God’s divine mercy and healing.

I was diagnosed with a traumatic  
brain injury (TBI) 13 years ago. By  
God’s grace, I recovered to a great  
extent over the first year with the  
help of medical therapies. Albeit  
closer to God, every aspect of my  
life became much more difficult.

The day after the retreat a friend  
and I were messaging each other and  
she indicated she did not remember  
hearing about my TBI over the many  
years we’ve known each other. While  
texting a response, I was reminded of  
precious friends who were, and still  
are, by my side. My grateful heart  
suddenly overflowed with love for  
them and every moment of my life.  
There was nothing more to write as  
my mind, body, heart and soul gently  
rested in the Holy Spirit. Praise God  
for his healing before, during and  
after the retreat. I now cope with the  
symptoms of my TBI much better and  
wounds of confusion and betrayal  
have been surrendered to God. In  
the name of Jesus, may God help  
and heal us all! ■

*Karen Marie Rotter, Obl.S.B. lives in  
Rochester WA.*

He gathers up all the pieces and re-  
assembles them. Every time I truly  
surrender, I’m reformed. My heart is  
made new. God uses everything for  
the Good. Everything. ■

*Heather Weldon is a parishioner at St. Anne  
parish, Seattle.*

*Transformed*  
**BY LOVE**

**FAMILY  
CELEBRATION**

Join us on Saturday, July 6th from 12-4  
@ St Thomas in Tukwila, WA

- ✓ Praise and Worship
- ✓ Teaching by Fr. Jim Northrop
- ✓ Children’s Activities
- ✓ Potluck Lunch

A-G Salad/Side   H-N Main Dish   O-Z Dessert  
WWCCR will provide drinks and utensils.

Contact Us  
[info@wwccr.org](mailto:info@wwccr.org)  
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# WHAT THE WOMEN'S RETREAT MEANS TO ME

by Karen Hauge

*For once you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord; walk as children of light.*  
- Ephesians 5:8

Remembering back to my first Women's Retreat I attended in 2014, I loved Jesus but did not have a firm plan from him. I was not in continuous prayer and fellowship with faith-filled women of God. I was searching for answers and sensing a need to belong to women who would pray and not judge.

From the time you turn down the drive of the Palisades, you know you are on holy ground, in the beauty of being at the retreat center. Priests and lay people have laid their desires, hopes and prayers at Jesus' feet to bring about the light of Jesus in each person.

I have a sense of belonging at this women's retreat; belonging to something this world cannot give, but a walk with children of light to never have to feel alone.

*Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children and walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.*  
- Ephesians 5:1-2 ■

*Karen Hauge belongs to Sacred Heart parish, Enumclaw, Washington and St. John the Baptist parish, Madison, Alabama.*



## REFLECTION

# TAKE MY HAND

by Drea Garcia

Galatians 6:2 tells us,

*"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."*

Praying for one another is a powerful way for us to bear one another's burdens. Taking another's hand and praying for them is a powerful blessing you can give another person.

At the 2024 Women's Retreat I was blessed to facilitate a small group of women throughout the weekend. As we got to know each other better, it soon became a safe haven of sharing. We laughed, prayed and even cried as Fr. Jim's open vulnerability in his talks gave way to our own.

A building-up of sisterhood led to us keeping up via text after the retreat so that if one needed prayer, all were notified.

We need to stay connected in a world that is so detached; to be a conduit of grace for the Lord to transform a life. Go ahead take a hand and bless someone today with words, in action or just being present to another. That is such a beautiful way to evangelize!

**REFLECTION:** Think back to a time when someone reached out their hand to help you. How did that affect your life?

**ACTION:** It is your turn to do the same. ■

*Andrea Garcia is WWCCR Board Vice President and a parishioner at Blessed Sacrament Parish in Seattle.*

Photo: Drea Garcia

## MAY/JUNE INTERCESSORY PRAYER NETWORK

Please pray for these priests, deacons, and seminarians:

May 1 Pope Francis	Jun 1 Pope Francis
May 2 Archbishop Paul Etienne D.D., S.T.L.	Jun 2 Archbishop Paul Etienne, D.D., S.T.L.
May 3 Bishop Eusebio Elizondo, M.S.pS., D.D.	Jun 3 Bishop Eusebio Elizondo, M.S.pS., D.D.
May 4 Bishop Frank Schuster, D.D.	Jun 4 Bishop Frank Schuster, D.D.
May 5 Fr. Jim Northrop	Jun 5 Fr. Jim Northrop
May 6 Fr. Joseph Loftus, F.S.S.P.	Jun 6 Deacon Stephen McGlone
May 7 Fr. John Ludvik	Jun 7 Deacon Ron McGuire
May 8 Deacon Craig Lundberg	Jun 8 Fr. William McKee
May 9 Fr. Jan Lundberg, O.C.D.	Jun 9 Fr. Timothy McKenna
May 10 Deacon Jack Lutz	Jun 10 Fr. Thomas McMichael
May 11 Fr. Fabian MacDonald	Jun 11 Fr. John McMullan
May 12 Sem. Evan MacKenzie	Jun 12 Deacon Greg McNabb
May 13 Fr. Peter Mactutis	Jun 13 Deacon Armando Medina
May 14 Sem. Maliko Madden	Jun 14 Fr. Chrysostom Mijinke, O.P.
May 15 Fr. John Madigan	Jun 15 Deacon Henry Miner
May 16 Deacon Abel Magaña-Sainz	Jun 16 Fr. Joseph Mitchell
May 17 Fr. Paul Magnano	Jun 17 Fr. Jeffrey Moore
May 18 Deacon Felix Maguire	Jun 18 Fr. Gilberto Mora Tapia
May 19 Fr. Dominic David Maichrowicz, O.P.	Jun 19 Fr. Kevin Moran
May 20 Fr. Maurice Mamba	Jun 20 Deacon George Mounce, III
May 21 Fr. Miguel Márquez, M.Sp.S.	Jun 21 Deacon Pat Moynihan
May 22 Fr. Jacob M. Maurer	Jun 22 Fr. David Mulholland
May 23 Fr. Gerald Mayovsky	Jun 23 Sem. Deacon Max Munoz
May 24 Fr. David Mayovsky	Jun 24 Deacon Don Murdy
May 25 Sem. Patrick Gitau Mbuiyu	Jun 25 Fr. James Mylett, M.M.
May 26 Fr. Dean Mbuzi	Jun 26 Fr. Kurt Nagel
May 27 Fr. Richard "Woody" McCallister	Jun 27 Fr. Thomas Nathe
May 28 Fr. J. Patrick McDermott	Jun 28 Fr. Joshua Nehnevaj
May 29 Fr. Michael McDermott	Jun 29 Deacon Phuoc Nguyen
May 30 Deacon Larry McDonald	Jun 30 Fr. Duc Nguyen
May 31 Deacon Angus McDonell	

Almighty and eternal God, in your unfailing love you provide ministers for your Church. We pray for those whom you call to serve the Archdiocese of Seattle as priests, deacons, seminarians and religious. Inspire in them a generous response. Grant them courage and vision to serve your people. May their lives and service call your people to respond to the presence of your Spirit among us that, faithful to the Gospel and hope of Jesus the Christ, we may: announce glad tidings to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives, set prisoners free, and renew the face of the earth. Amen

## INTERCESSIONS

Let us pray...

**Come Holy Spirit,**

renew your people as we gather early on May 11th to prepare for Pentecost. Come in power through the worship, the Mass, the prayer and the fellowship, that we will be renewed with holy zeal to proclaim that Jesus is Lord.

**Come Holy Spirit,**

guide and direct all young adults who are discerning their vocation right now. May the Holy Spirit prepare the way for them to joyfully say yes to your will for their life.

**Come Holy Spirit,**

bless all of those who support WWCCR with their prayers, their time, and their treasure. May the Lord use us, together, to bring baptism in the Holy Spirit to our parishes, our families and communities.

**Come Holy Spirit,**

strengthen and renew our parishes in the Archdiocese of Seattle so that our new parish families can be places of welcome and deep faith. Bless our spiritual director, Fr. Jim Northrop as he prepares for his new parish assignment.

**Come Holy Spirit,**

fall afresh on the Board of Directors as they discern and lead WWCCR. Give them wisdom and courage to follow the promptings of the Holy Spirit in their decisions and planning.

**Come Holy Spirit,**

hear our prayer. Amen.



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**GLEANNINGS**  
MAY/JUNE 2024



*Be  
Filled*  
with the Holy Spirit

A charismatic Mass to gather  
for praise and prayer as we prepare  
for our great feast of Pentecost!

Saturday, May 11th  
10:00am

at St. Pius X Parish  
22301 58TH AVE W,  
Mountlake Terrace

*Homily*  
Fr. Cal Christiansen  
*Co-Celebrant*  
Fr. Jim Northrop

Praise and Worship  
Fellowship & potluck to follow  
*Special blessing for Moms!*

**For info:** 206-364-2272  
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